

Northern Cancer Control Strategy: NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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New hires bolster core team needed to open cancer centre

BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North has added to its core medical team with the hiring of medical oncologist Dr. Christian Fibich and medical physicist Piotr Dubrowski.

"One of the major successes of the Northern Cancer Control Strategy has been the recruitment plan. We have been able to attract a strong and talented core team that will provide leadership in the years ahead," said Prince George – Valemount MLA Shirley Bond. "The ability to staff the centre was originally a concern and I am very grateful that professionals like Dr. Fibich and physicist Piotr Dubrowski have recognized that Northern British Columbia is a great place to work and live. We welcome them to our cancer care team."

Dr. Fibich is the second new medical oncologist recruited by the Centre for the North in advance of its opening in late 2012, while Mr. Dubrowski is the second medical physicist hired.

"Finding the key cancer specialists needed to provide expanded services in Northern B.C. has been a key focus for the Northern Cancer Control Strategy partnership," said Prince George – Mackenzie MLA Pat Bell.

Dr. Fibich joins the Centre for the North following six years working at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. Dr. Fibich received his medical oncology training in Germany, and is also certified in internal medicine and hematology. Dr. Fibich joins Dr. Suresh Katakhar, who was the first medical oncologist hired for the new cancer centre.

Mr. Dubrowski is a BC-trained medical physicist with clinical training at the BC Cancer Agency and post graduate work in cancer research at the University of B.C. He has a background in biomedical optics, cancer genetics and radiation oncology physics. He is currently working in Surrey in conjunction with Dr. Narinder Sidhu, who will be the medical physics leader when the Centre for the North opens.

"Dr. Christian Fibich and Piotr Dubrowski are very important additions to our regional oncology team in the North," said Karim Karmali, BC Cancer Agency's chief operating officer. "We look forward to providing enhanced cancer services for Northern cancer patients when the Centre for the North opens."

"This cancer centre will bring much needed services to the Northern region, meaning patients and their families will no longer need to travel as far to receive radiation therapy," said Nechako Lakes MLA John Rustad.

When the new facility is fully operational, it will employ approximately 100 full- and part-time staff. The centre continues to recruit for many roles, including an additional medical oncologist, radiation therapists, nurses, pharmacists, social workers and clerks.

Medical oncologists are physicians who diagnose and treat cancer using chemotherapy and hormone therapy. Medical physicists ensure the radiation therapy equipment is performing accurately and safely, and works with physicians and radiation therapists to develop patient treatment plans.

The Northern Cancer Control Strategy is a joint partnership between Northern Health, BC Cancer Agency and the Provincial Health Services Authority. It is focused on enhancing the continuum of cancer services in the North, including prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, supportive and palliative care.

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